

No. 27, Vol. 3, New Series.

Paris, Maine, Tuesday, November 14, 1843.

Old Series, No. 38, Vol. 11.

**OXFORD DEMOCRAT,**  
PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY BY  
George W. Clift,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Executed with neatness and despatch.

**POPULAR TALES.**

From the Olive Branch.

**THE SPIDER CAUGHT IN HIS OWN WEB.**

One morning at an inn, in a southern State, where I had lodged the preceding night, as I lay ruminating on the bright eyes and warm hearts I had left behind me, and already anticipating the delightful raptures which I trusted were in store for me at a future day in returning to my family and friends, I looked upon one of these busy little insects above-mentioned, who in one corner of the ceiling was ever & anon pouncing upon an unfortunate fly, as it unconsciously entered the snare of this many legged fowler.

“Certainly! my friend, certainly!” answered Wormsley, “have you it all prepared!—ready for

signature?”

“You will find it in that drawer, Mr. Wormsley: but first I would converse with you in relation to the trust I am about to repose in you—a trust

which alone has sprung out of a conviction of the sincerity of your friendship—nay, do not interrupt me, I feel, dear sir, conscious that my

trust is approaching, and therefore—in short, my

friend, I commit to your care and protection, my friend, the infant my dear departed Julia left me—

and, with them, I leave wholly to your management and control, my earthly possession:—when William is of age I wish him all that

isitors received into their hands all that I thus entrust to you—but you will find it all in the pa-

persuasion your hands.”

The voice of Clermont trembled at every word—and he lay pale and exhausted while Wormsley opened and read over the contents of his benefactor’s will: they had been already briefly, and doubtless, sufficiently explained. Relying on the close friendship that had so long existed, as he supposed, between himself and his intended executor, Clermont had placed entirely in his

hands all his vast estate, to be held by him in trust for the benefit of his children, who, so soon

as the eldest living should arrive at the years of maturity, were to receive it and hold it as their own:—In the mean time Wormsley was to be

his sole guardian, and authorized to defray all expenses incident to their education out of the ample profits of the estate. “My dear friend, or recall no incidents of human life resembling

it to the very letter! Ah! you may depend upon it that it has not been the only spider who was caught in the net he spread for others; and we

will give you, if you please, one instance out of many, (alas! for poor human nature!) which have occurred in this unhappy world of depravity!

Joseph Wormsley was one of the most covetous creatures that ever existed, scarcely an hour of his long life passed that he did not violate the tenth commandment, in some way or other for even in his sleep, he dreamt of the possessions of others, and would frequently fancy he had managed matters so as to get them to himself; and he might be heard by a fellow-lodger in the next room to chuckle at the thought of his dexterity in ousting the envied possessor from his own.

By dint of industry and frugality, (or more properly speaking, parsimony,) he became the proprietor of a comfortable and moderately profitable farm in the western country, abounding that of his friend and benefactor, Mr. William Clermont, under whose hospitable roof he remained for some time after his arrival in this country, and from whence he obtained every assistance necessary towards establishing himself in the business of a trading land-holder.

The farm of Mr. Clermont was more extensive, though perhaps not much more productive than his own but many a sigh did it cost him, as he looked with a longing eye upon the little fields of the Clermont estate, to think they were not his own; neither was there the most distant probability that such would ever be the case. Mr. Clermont was of a very amiable family, and inherited all good qualities of his ancestors; he generally however, observed the fair side of human nature, and studiously avoided the reverse; believing in the excellency of his heart, that it was not necessary to notice the bad, but rather to search out and admire the good traits of character in others.

Now this, to a certain extent, may answer the purposes of life, and make one feel, doubtless, contented and happy; but, bless me! it will very often produce disquietude, vexations and losses, when we least expect either. I have, however, been frequently at a loss to discover what good traits of character Mr. Clermont found in Jasper Wormsley: it is true, he could make himself very agreeable sometimes, and would entertain his friend for hours on the subject of the *old country*, as he termed it: but without that his character, as regarded goodness, was a blank—he never thought of doing a good action in his life, and as to disinterestedness, he never took it into his head to inquire its meaning.

Nevertheless, Clermont and Wormsley were inseparable; and I do verily believe, that if the latter had seriously at one time solicited the former for half his extensive property, it would have been given; but this, Wormsley concluded, would rather be venturing too much upon the liberality of his patron, who had already so largely contributed to his early wants and comfort.

It was in the month of October, ‘06, when the

little Clermonts were sent to the house of Jasper Wormsley, till, as they were told their father, such a desire to read it, sir,—“Why will you so often ask me that William? Better mind your, specifically, but earnestly, solicited the required in-

required constant watchfulness and undisturbed, you?”

quiet, which the innocent prattle of little Sue, and the forgetful playfulness of William and Jane, some time, with a fever which, from its obstinacy, required constant watchfulness and undisturbed, you?”

“Yes—but dear sir, I should so like to see it—just to have it in my hands” (such is childhood)

“Poor things! they were soon to be left in the wide world fatherless, as they had for some time

before motherless, and to be given over, at their young and tender age, to the control of others

hands and hearts than those of kind and affectionate parents.

A message came with the children from Mr. Clermont, requesting Mr. Wormsley to visit him that evening, as he was easier and desired an interview with him on business. The sick man lay in his bed, with scarcely strength to extend his hand, when Wormsley, in compliance with his request, entered his chamber.

“Well, you shall see it, some of these days, William.”

Young Clermont was determined to keep him at his word—so he waited a full fortnight with a great deal of patience, and was on the point of renewing his request when his guardian came to him, as he was sitting with his sisters one morning, and handing him a paper, the appearance of which was that of no recent date, observed,

“William, you asked me some time ago, to show you your father’s will—he was a fine man, William—here it is: don’t tear it—bless me! it is so old! let me see—the sixteenth day of October, seventeen hundred ninety-six.”

“Very old,” said William, as he eagerly looked at the but faintly remembered writing of his father, as he carefully held it before him to peruse it.

He conned it over again and again, and at length observed, “Yes, sir—how kind father was

to give you all his fine farm that is, when we

grow up; I believe it is so, is it not, sir?”

“Aye, aye, William, that is for the trouble and expense I am at in educating you, and supporting you all, you know—Ah, my lad, you little

know how dreadfully expensive it is to bring up little children. I am glad I have none of my own, William, that I am.”

The unconscious boy perused once more the instrument handed to him as the will of his father, and thoughtless of the consequences to himself and sisters of being penniless as soon as they arrived at full age, for such was the import of the writing before him, he handed it complacently to his guardian, thanked him with child-like sincerity, for the perusal of it, and returned to his boyish amusements.

The will of his father!—no! my reader, the document was the production of a villain’s pen

dipped in the blackest gall of human depravity,

a forgery, so artfully and cunningly designed to

deceive the friendless orphans of their own, as to

render it next to impossible that human scrutiny

should unmask the deception.

With the worm of envy revelling in his heart, and avarice, unsatiable avarice, spoiling him on

the unholed deed, he fabricated another will in

place of the genuine one, which bequeathed to

himself, when the children should become of age, all the Clermont estate, in consideration, as the

forgery stated, of various unpaid obligations of

magnitude—in addition to all which, Wormsley

was to rear, maintain, and educate the orphans committed to his charge.

The same witnesses were affixed to it, and the signature, to every appearance was that of the testator.

In fine, the treacherous executor had so manufactured the deceptive document that it bore the most unequivocal appearance of being the reality, when it was in fact a foul imposition.

From this time forward, Wormsley would frequently talk to the Clermonts of the good, kind

father, and of the will, and how he used to lend

their father sums of money, which his death, no

doubt prevented his returning, and—but the

heart loathes the recital of his many contrivances

to ‘make assurance doubly sure,’ and of success

that attended all his iniquitous schemes.

And the little ones grew up to the estate of

manhood and of womanhood, and Jane, first ad-

mired, then ardently beloved, became the wife of

an honorable and moderately wealthy citizen of

the country, he took her for his own sake, for al-

though it seemed strange, passing strange, that

though all her father’s wealth, she and her brother

and sister should be left portionless, such was the

commonly received report, and he gave the de-

privation not a thought.

But it was otherwise with young Clermont.—

He could not understand why the whole of his

father’s vast estate should pass into the hands of a

stranger; great indeed must have been the pecuni-

ary obligations under which his father labored,

to have compelled him to grant so extensive a be-

quest to the utter exclusion of his own offspring,

and then he had a recollection, though but an in-

distinct one, that the department and bearing of

Mr. Wormsley toward his departed parent was

that of one who had received favors, certainly

not of one who had granted them. How could

it be? He pondered, and pondered, and could

not remember the least trace of an expression, or

an action, on the part of his father, that could

lead him for a moment to suppose that the dispu-

tion made of the estate was ever to take place.

Reflection on the subject made him more and

more desirous of unravelling the mystery, and at

length he resolved to call on his late guardian,

and ask him for such an explanation of the rela-

tions which existed between him and his father,

as would satisfy him of the justice and propriety

of his father’s will.

He accordingly repaired from his residence in

the adjoining county, where he had located him-

self, still, pursuing the studies of a respectable

friend, to the house of his birth and the scenes

of his infancy, now occupied by, to him at least

the forbidding, the mysterious Jasper Wormsley.

He was received with marked reserve and cold-

ness, and it was, therefore, not long before Clermont entered upon the object of his visit, and re-  
quested him to read his father’s will. “I have a

desire to read it, sir,—“Why will you so often ask me that William? Better mind your, specifically, but earnestly, solicited the required in-

formation.

“Why, really Mr. Clermont,” said Wormsley, “if you wish it, certainly, certainly by all means, Mr. Clermont; I shall conceal nothing, Mr. Clermont, nothing at all, sir.”

“Then, sir, if you will be so obliging—

“Well,—since you are so anxious to know all about it, and about, as the song says, eh! Mr. Clermont, you know the old song?—very warm day this!”

“Very, sir.”

“And pray where dose your sister Jane and her good man live?”

“A few miles west of this, sir.”

“You have a fine nag there, Mr. Clermont, pray where did you meet him—bless me, ‘tis a fine

“I purchased him from a friend, sir, but, sir,

as my time is not altogether my own, will you favor me with—”

“Oh! aye, aye, well, as I was saying; ah! your father died—he was a very good man, he died, let me see, ah! the will will show, yes, the will

will show, I shall get it Mr. Clermont, wait an instant.”

Wormsley retired for a few minutes, and again entered with the will: “Here it is, sir, here it is—bless me! it is an old paper is it not?—let me see; ah! the fish day of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six—that was the time

Mr. Clermont, except that he signed the will first, you know—there is his signature, Mr. Clermont, there it is—he was a fine man, Mr. Clermont.”

Wormsley retired for a few minutes, and again entered with the will: “Here it is, sir, here it is—bless me! it is an old paper is it not?—let me see; ah! the fish day of October, one

WANTED, 500  
ter Apples, & 50 bushel  
cash and the highest price  
subscriber.

Norway Village, Nov.

## SCHOOL

At Very Low price  
sale at the

OXFORD BO

W

Norway Village, Nov.

FALL AND WIN

AT T

## ONE PRICE

Norway St

THE subscribers want to  
tellers and the public  
just received from Boston, at  
Stock and most Fashionable  
Winter Goods ever offered  
County. Among which are  
BLACK, BLUE, BROWN  
and STEE

BROAD

CASSIMIRES

200 pieces Prints—20 pic  
cane-back ALPACAS. C  
Abrics.—Fig'd Luminaries  
—Suits and Cotton Huds  
Satinings and Shirts—6  
Battings, C. Wadding, &c.  
a assortt of

CROCKERY, GLAS

AND CUT

Two Poms Boston Iron Co.  
Stock and Servt-She  
Lace and Fount. 200 sic  
25 Farbark's Import

COOKING

at from \$10  
BOX STOVES at from  
LUFFALO ROLERS—PUR

—15

We have on hand 40 lbs  
when we sell by the

1000 Bushels

It is our intention to do all  
are confined in that the fac  
Gros buying to go on  
will cause us to offer  
to partake of and save to  
Pound to purchase that Q

AT PUBLIC AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, the 27th day of NOV.—at the house  
privately occupied by JOSEPH H. LEE, in Brown  
at 10 o'clock A. M.

At the interest Jonathan G. Bean had in the home  
estate of his late father, Daniel Bean.

Also Two notes of hand belonging to the estate of

the late J. G. Bean.

On the same day, at 2 o'clock P. M., at the Store of

Spring & Gosselin, in Brown, property belonging

to the estate of Jonathan G. Bean, &c.

His interest in the following described real Estate.—

88 Lots laid out in addition to White Rock

City, in Michigan.

A lot of land situated in the village of Prairie, Mi

chigan.

A lot of land situated in Saginaw County, Michigan.

A lot of land in Denmark corner with house and six

acres, purchased from S. Wilson by and Harry and

Wilson, Esq.

A 1/4 of land at Denmark corner, which he purchased

from Charles Smith.

A 1/4 of land at Denmark corner formerly owned by

Henry Warren.

Lots No. 5 & 6 in Whitefield, New Hampshire.

Land, Mire, &c. in Shelly County, Ia.

All claims and demands belonging to said Harry and

Wilson, Esq.

A leather-back & wallet—1 sleigh—1 pair chaise

which I signed—1 sword—1 silk hat—1 Ep

and a gold ring—1 carpet bag.

On Tuesday, the 29th day of Nov. at the house of

John H. Harland, in Denmark.—All claims and

demands belonging to said Harland's estate—

1 house & 1 carriage—1 barn & 1 1/2 acre.

On Friday, the 1st day of Decr., at the Store of

Spring & Gosselin, in Denmark, all the interest Cyrus

Inc. had in the following real estate, viz.—

A lot of land in Denmark on the Lake road formerly

occupied by John Warren.

Land and Mire in Denmark, conveyed to said Ingalls

lot of land in said Denmark, sold to Ingalls for

£1000 No. 5 & 6, and one half of No. 3, in Brownfield.

Also Two shares in Hancock Brook Canal.

1 Pew in Town House in Denmark.

Right to make and vend Petrol Stomp Machine in

Denmark.

I share in the H. Scales in Denmark.

1000—Post—1 Gig and Harness—Lot of Oak

1000—1 Waggon—1 Time piece—2 maps—part of an

old Chair—1/2 of a Necker—1 pair claims and demands

belonging to said Ingalls's estate.

On Sunday, the 21st day of Decr., at Newgate's

Store, in Brewster, at 10 o'clock A. M.—

Mass. 1. Gosselin's interest in 4 acres of land and one

house at Mill Brook in Henn.

Some 1000 pounds of flour to convey 21 acres of

land—Sunday accounts belonging to said Gosselin's estate.

On Monday, the 4th day of December, at Knobles

Inn in Plympton, at 10 o'clock A. M.—

John McLean's interest in a mortgage of land in

Eastport—All claims and demands belonging to said

McLean.

1000 to compound any debt due the Es

ates of Timothy G. Hadley, Bez. H. Hadley, Cyrus Ingalls, and John McLean.

JOHN W. DANA, Assignee.

Nov. 14th, 1843.

Proprietors names unk.

Wm. F. Kendall & unk.

Ha. Gold & Allerton, one

name unk.

Unk & unk are paid to me, the sub

ject to the payment of the interest.

On Friday, the 1st day of Decr., at the Store of

Spring & Gosselin, in Denmark, all the interest Cyrus

Inc. had in the following real estate, viz.—

A lot of land in Denmark on the Lake road formerly

occupied by John Warren.

Land and Mire in Denmark, conveyed to said Ingalls

lot of land in said Denmark, sold to Ingalls for

£1000 No. 5 & 6, and one half of No. 3, in Brownfield.

Also Two shares in Hancock Brook Canal.

1 Pew in Town House in Denmark.

Right to make and vend Petrol Stomp Machine in

Denmark.

I share in the H. Scales in Denmark.

1000—Post—1 Gig and Harness—Lot of Oak

1000—1 Waggon—1 Time piece—2 maps—part of an

old Chair—1/2 of a Necker—1 pair claims and demands

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Some 1000 pounds of flour to convey 21 acres of

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On Monday, the 4th day of December, at Knobles

Inn in Plympton, at 10 o'clock A. M.—

John McLean's interest in a mortgage of land in

Eastport—All claims and demands belonging to said

McLean.

1000 to compound any debt due the Es

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